

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6370

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8963

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REPORT RE LEAKS CONNECTED WITH DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT

1. IN TELECON WITH USAMA AL-BAZ A FEW MINUTES AGO TO
ARRANGE A MEETING WITH FAHMY (WHO IS STAYING AT HOME
TODAY), AL-BAZ SAID GHORBAL HAS REPORTED THAT AN "NSC
SOURCE" INFORMED HIM THAT LESLIE GELB WILL HAVE AN
ARTICLE IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES DESCRIBING IN DETAIL
THE "SECRET" MEMORANDUM BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL. SOURCE
HAS ASSURED THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY THAT NO ONE IN THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS LEAKED ANY SUCH DOCUMENT.

2. FAHMY WANTS US TO KNOW, SAID AL-BAZ, THAT GOE IS NOT
RPT NOT AWARE OF ANY SECRET UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USG
AND ISRAEL. HOWEVER, WHILE INSISTING THERE ARE
NO SECRET DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AGREEMENT, WE
SHOULD KNOW THAT IF EITHER USG OR ISRAELIS LEAK ANYTHING,
GOE WILL CONSIDER ITSELF AT LIBERTY TO PUBLISH ANY
UNDERTAKINGS RECEIVED FROM THE US. FAHMY ASKED THAT
THE ABOVE BE CONVEYED TO YOU. I ASKED AL-BAZ TO EMPHASIZE
TO FAHMY THAT HE COULD BE SURE WE ARE NOT LEAKING ANYTHING.
I WOULD DO THE SAME WHEN I SEE HIM.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GELB WAS SPECIFICALLY CITED AS
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THE JOURNALIST INVOLVED, GENERAL DESCRIPTION COULD ALSO

APPLY TO GWERTZMAN ARTICLE OF SEPTEMBER 10 CITED
STATE'S 215100. SOME OF THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN
THAT ARTICLE WILL MAKE THE EGYPTIANS SEE RED, ESPECIALLY
THOSE ABOUT EGYPTIAN ASSURANCES TO ISRAEL. REGRETTABLY,
THEY WILL FURTHER EMBARRASS SADAT IN HIS CURRENT
CONFRONTATION WITH HIS ARAB AND SOVIET CRITICS. WE MAY
EXPECT A SPATE OF OFFICIAL GOE DENIALS.
EILTS

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